

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

Claims 1-16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (new):      A method for transferring springs into holding means of an assembler, comprising:

delivering the springs in a conveying direction, by means of a spring conveyor arranged, one behind another in a row in groups into a holding means of the assembler;

displacing the springs perpendicularly with respect to the conveying direction by means of a sliding bar; and

causing the spring conveyor to transport the springs into the assembler.

Claim 18 (new):      The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the springs are transported into the assembler on one end side of the assembler.

Claim 19 (new):      The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the sliding bar is displaced along a horizontal path which is predefined by at least one slotted guide track, for transferring the springs.

Claim 20 (new):      The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the sliding bar is removed completely out of the region of the spring conveyor after each transfer.

Claim 21 (new):      The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the sliding bar is moved into a service position by being displaced along a curved path of the at least one slotted guide track.

Claim 22 (new):      The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the sliding bar is pivoted downward toward the spring conveyor in order to reach a service position.

Claim 23 (new): A device for transferring springs, which are arranged one behind another in a row along a conveying direction, into holding means of an assembler, the device having a sliding bar for transferring the springs in groups from a spring conveyor into the holding means of the assembler perpendicularly with respect to the conveying direction, wherein the spring conveyor protrudes into the assembler.

Claim 24 (new): The device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the sliding bar is an integral constituent part of the assembler.

Claim 25 (new): The device as claimed in claim 23, wherein said device has at least one slotted guide track, the sliding bar being arranged displaceably along this at least one slotted guide track, and said sliding bar displaceable along a horizontal path of this at least one slotted guide track for transferring the springs.

Claim 26 (new): The device as claimed in claim 25, wherein the at least one slotted guide track has a length which is dimensioned such that the sliding bar can be removed completely out of the region of the spring conveyor after each transfer of springs.

Claim 27 (new): The device as claimed in claim 25, wherein the at least one slotted guide track has a curved path, and the sliding bar is moveable into a service position by displacement along this curved path.

Claim 28 (new): The device as claimed in claim 27, wherein the sliding bar is pivotable downward toward the spring conveyor in order to reach the service position.

Claim 29 (new): The device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the sliding bar has sliding guides for accommodating in each case one spring, each sliding guide having a recess which corresponds to a part of an outer contour shape of the spring which is to be accommodated.

Claim 30 (new): The device as claimed in claim 29, wherein the recess is configured in the shape of a partial circle.

Claim 31 (new): A transfer device for transferring springs, which are arranged one behind another in a row along a conveying direction, into holding means of an assembler, the transfer device having a sliding bar for transferring the springs in groups into the holding means of the assembler perpendicularly with respect to the conveying direction, wherein the transfer device has at least one slotted guide track in which the sliding bar is arranged displaceably along this at least one slotted guide track, and said sliding bar is displaceable along a horizontal path of this at least one slotted guide track for transferring the springs.

Claim 32 (new): The device as claimed in claim 31, wherein the at least one slotted guide track has a curved path, and the sliding bar is moveable into a service position by displacement along this curved path.